

# PHYSICAL SCIENCE curr A - COURSE DESCRIPTION

John Macuk, rm. 416

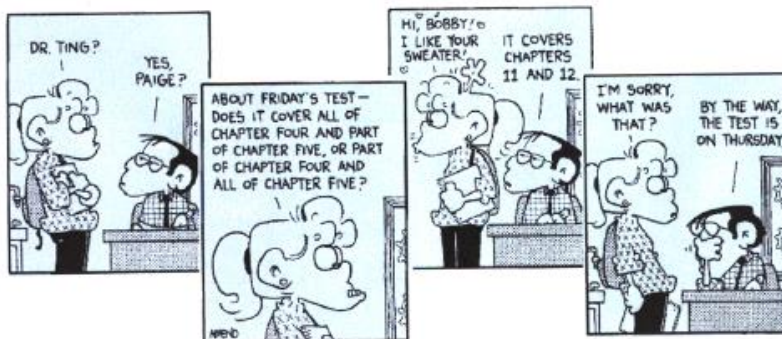
<http://macuk-arlington.wikispaces.com>

[jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us)

## What Physical Science curr A is about

Science is a process of inquiry and experimentation. This class covers concepts in Physics at the introductory level; it requires basic math skills up to algebra. We will be using Hewitt's Conceptual Physical Science, supplemented with other material; I also recommend The Cartoon Guide to Physics, by Larry Gonick, for a fun way to learn the concepts and gain understanding.

<i><b>First semester</b></i>	<i><b>Second semester</b></i>
• <i>Measurement &amp; Unit Conversion</i>	• <i>Momentum &amp; Conservation</i>
• <i>Graphing</i>	• <i>Energy &amp; Conservation</i>
• <i>Motion</i>	• <i>Temperature and Heat transfer</i>
• <i>Forces</i>	• <i>Electricity &amp; Magnetism</i>



I expect my students to know and understand the **Arlington HS Mission and Expectations** and the **Student Handbook**, which you will find on the school website; below is a summary of how they will be applied in our class:

### **Social and Civic Expectations**

#### **Personal Responsibility**

- ✓ Students will be punctual and prepared for class.
- ✓ Students will bring a note for each absence and make up any work missed.

#### **Social Responsibility**

- ✓ Students will work safely in a variety of classroom settings.
- ✓ Students will practice respectful behavior in a variety of classroom settings.

#### **Critical Thinking**

- ✓ Students will read and analyze their textbook, assignments and assessments.
- ✓ Students will complete all assignments at an acceptable level and on time.

#### **Communication**

- ✓ Students will record homework in a planner and maintain a well-organized science notebook.
- ✓ Students will promptly return any material requiring a parent signature.

### **Academic Expectations**

#### **Grading Scale:**

- ✓ As described in the Student Handbook, but please note that **I do not treat D's as an acceptable grade!** If you have a less than passing grade (C-) on any work, I will expect you to redo the assignment to earn a passing grade!

#### **Grading Categories:**

- ✓ Classwork & Labwork 50%
- ✓ Homework 10%
- ✓ Quizzes 20%
- ✓ Tests 20%
- 100%

#### **Student Materials**

- ✓ two composition books – one *must be graph ruled*
- ✓ one 1.5" binder with at least **four (4) dividers**
- ✓ Pens and Pencils
- ✓ Scientific Calculator (not graphing)

## **Student 1<sup>ST</sup> HOMEWORK, due tomorrow**

Go to my wiki page and complete the Student Data form, including the question below:  
What do I expect you to choose to do while you build your future now?

**Classwork and Homework:** You can expect to have homework once or twice a week. I expect my students to do the assigned homework and come prepared to class with their materials and homework. *See me or email me if you need help or are having difficulties! That's what I'm here for!*

For both classwork and homework, I encourage my students to learn collaboratively, but each student must hand in original work of their own. See the **Student Handbook** for the school's Academic Integrity Policy, definitions of Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism. *Tutoring others is encouraged – giving answers is not!*

In my classes, I try to encourage the same kind work that my students will do when they leave school and have their first jobs: rather than relying on tests for grades, I check my student's classwork constantly and give regular feedback on how they are doing. *Doing the work in small pieces regularly is much easier than the night before a test or quiz!*

Class will begin each day with Warm-up (pop-quiz) questions on the board and any assignments due being collected. The day's agenda and assignments will be posted. Most classes will end with an Exit (pop quiz) question. *Expect a comprehensive quiz at the end of the week – be prepared!*



**What you can do to help your child:**

**Ask** what she did in school today: if she says “nothing” or can’t show you her notes and assignments, prompt her to produce them!

*We will be doing something fun and exciting and learning new things every day! (...OK, practically every day...)*

**Attendance** is a crucial element of success at Arlington HS. In this class, performance is the largest part of the grade; if your child misses class, it is her responsibility to find out what she missed and make up classwork and homework.

*(NB Assignments missed due to **unexcused absences** or **suspensions** may not get any credit!)*

**Homework** is exercise for your brain that strengthens your mental muscles; the most important thing you can do for your child is to provide a quiet space to study and to check that homework is being done. If your child says there is no homework assignment, ask to see her assignment planner.

*The best way to improve your grade is to do all assignments on time, and re-do poor ones!*

**Communicate** with me if you are concerned about your child's homework, or want to know how she is doing in class.

Visit my Wiki page <http://macuk-arlington.wikispaces.com> and e-mail me at [jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us).

I look forward to a great year with you!

*Mr. Macuk*

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**Parent 1<sup>ST</sup> HOMEWORK, due tomorrow**

Please go to my wiki page and complete the Parent Link form.  
Add any questions or concerns you want to ask me about.

# PHYSICAL SCIENCE curr A - COURSE DESCRIPTION for Parent Night

John Macuk, rm. 416

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[jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:jmacuk@arlington.k12.ma.us)

## What Physical Science curr A is about

Science is a process of inquiry and experimentation. This class covers concepts in Physics and prepares 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for the Introductory Physics MCAS. We will be using Hewitt's Conceptual Physical Science; I also recommend The Cartoon Guide to Physics, by Larry Gonick, for a fun way to learn the concepts and gain understanding.

## What we'll be covering

<i><b>First semester</b></i>	<i><b>Second semester</b></i>
• <i>Measurement &amp; Unit Conversion</i>	• <i>Momentum &amp; Conservation</i>
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This meets the MA Science & Technology Standards; they may be found in the document

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/scitech/1006.pdf> . The standards for Introductory Physics begin on page 74.

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## **Grading Scale:**

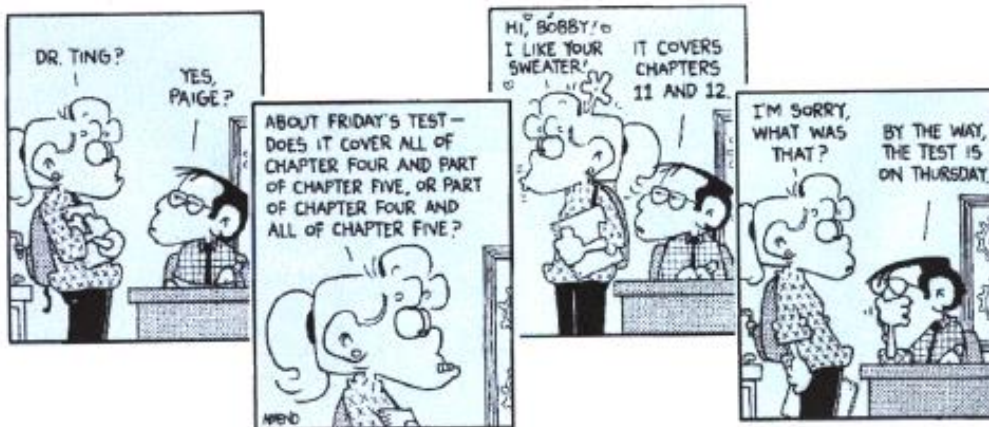
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## **Grading Categories:**

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Expect a comprehensive quiz at the end of the week – *make sure your child is prepared the night before!*

**For Better or For Worse/Lynn Johnston**



**What you can do to help your child:**

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*The best way to improve your grade is to do all assignments on time, and re-do poor ones!*

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I look forward to a great year with you!

*Mr. Macuk*

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